



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1100.2 - Statistics Victoria, Sep 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 14/10/2010

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## About this Release

Statistics Victoria is a quarterly newsletter primarily targetted to Victorian state and local government users providing information about new developments, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

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## Laneways

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### LANEWAYS

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Welcome to the latest edition of Statistics Victoria. My name is Lane Masterton, the new Regional Director of ABS Victoria.

The Victorian Office of the ABS plays a vital role in the preparation of national statistical information covering a variety of topics. It also has a key responsibility to engage with the Victorian community at all levels. The Statistics Victoria newsletter provides a quarterly overview of ABS releases with content relevant to Victoria. I hope you find valuable information in this latest edition.

We now have less than 12 months until the next Population Census; Census night is 9 August 2011. While this may seem a long time away, a great deal of work is already underway to ensure a successful result. The ABS is engaging with communities to promote the importance of the Census and to identify potential problems. We have a particular focus on our Indigenous population led by our Indigenous Engagement Manager.

The Census is held in high regard for its ability to provide an understanding of the social and economic context of life in Australia. It allows the production of robust data for small areas, thus informing policy decisions that will impact on Victorians. For this reason we ask the assistance of the wider statistical and research community in promoting the Census throughout the community.

On 2 - 4 March 2011, we will be hosting the **Census | beyond the count** conference at the Hilton on the Park in East Melbourne. The Conference will highlight the effective and innovative use of Census data by government, community and private sector organisations. For more information, please see the **Census | beyond the count** article in the "What's Happening" section of this newsletter.

Should you have any queries, please refer to the list of contacts at the end of the publication.

Enjoy reading Statistics Victoria.

Lane Masterton

Regional Director  
ABS Victoria



## What's Happening

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### WHAT'S HAPPENING



### CENSUS | BEYOND THE COUNT

**Census | beyond the count is a showcase event that explores the issues that matter to all Australians. We will look beyond the count and reveal what a difference the Census makes.**

The 2011 Census is less than a year away! In the lead up to the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics will host an exciting event at Hilton on the Park in Melbourne, from the 2 March to 4 March 2011.

The **Census | beyond the count** conference will highlight the effective and innovative use of Census data by government, community and private sector organisations. Over the course of two days, the conference will explore the difference that the Census makes to community planning, infrastructure development, business opportunities and government policy.

We are now calling for speakers to present at this exciting event! The program will feature a variety of presentation formats, including plenary presentations, panel discussions, concurrent sessions and workshops. We are seeking presentations of approximately 20 minutes in length, that demonstrate practical examples of how Census data has been used to 'make a difference' across a wide range of sectors, at all levels of government and business, and in communities across Australia.

If you would like to join us at **Census | beyond the count** or know of others who have a Census story to tell, we would love to hear from you.

Visit <[www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount](http://www.abs.gov.au/beyondthecount)> to find out more. We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter <[@beyondthecount](https://twitter.com/beyondthecount)>.

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### FREE INFORMATION SESSION AT ABS VICTORIA

Interested in knowing what to expect for Census 2011? Struggling to make sense of the ABS website and its products? Not sure where to turn for more information?

Well, look no further. We will be holding a **free** information session in the ABS Victorian office about these topics.

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2010

Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Venue: ABS Victorian Office, 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

Our presenter, Heather Burns, will cover:

- An overview of proposed Census 2011 products
- The new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)
- Tips on navigating the ABS website
- The Understanding Statistics portal
- How to use CDATA 2006 correctly
- How to use Socio-Economic Indexes For Areas (SEIFA) 2006 correctly
- How to contact the ABS for assistance

To register your attendance for this session, or to find out more, please email [victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au). If you work in State or Local Government and would like a similar session run in your office, please contact Heather Burns on 03 9615 7535 to discuss.

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# NatStats 2010 Conference

15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

## NATSTATS 2010

On 15-17 September in Sydney, over 450 delegates attended the NatStats conference in Sydney. The delegates included leaders, high profile commentators, researchers and policy makers from all levels of government, academia, community and business.

The overall theme for NatStats 2010 was "Measuring what counts: economic development, wellbeing and progress in 21st century Australia". The following four topics formed a focus for the discussions:

1. Challenges facing Australian Society: Issues, Policy and Information
2. Australia in the Global Economy
3. Improving Australians' Wellbeing; and
4. Measuring Progress: Improving the Measurement of Progress.

A range of high profile and eminent speakers presented to delegates during the two days, including: the new Minister with responsibility for the ABS, The Hon. Bill Shorten; Mr Paul McClintock AO of the COAG Reform Council; Professor Enrico Giovannini of the National Institute of Statistics in Italy; Dr. Ken Henry, Secretary to the Commonwealth Treasury; Dr. Philip Lowe of the Reserve Bank of Australia; Ms Martine Durand of the OECD; and the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop AC, to name but a few.

The focus on the measurement of wellbeing was a thread throughout the entire conference, drawing together a range of initiatives in Australia, such as the ABS Measures of Australia's Progress (cat. no. 1370.0) publication that was launched at the conference, through to OECD work to develop international frameworks. A key theme to emerge was the increasing interconnection between economies and therefore national, regional and international statistical systems.

This successful and stimulating conference built on the enthusiasm and passion generated by delegates at NatStats08, and included the development of conference recommendations to guide the development of national statistics for Australia in the 21st century. The NatStats 2010 Conference Recommendations will be released on the first ever World Statistics Day, on October 20th, 2010.

We would like to thank all the Victorian delegates who attended NatStats 2010 and we look forward to working with you to build an effective national statistical service for the future.

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## **SMALL BUSINESS BIG MARKETING EVENT**

In August, the Victorian Government's Small Business Victoria coordinated an annual small business festival, *Energise Enterprise*, comprising over 400 events across metropolitan and regional Victoria. Energise Enterprise draws together industry groups, private organisations and local, state and commonwealth government agencies to provide a variety of information and assistance for those who are starting or building a business.

One of the feature events this year was the "Small Business BIG Marketing Event" held in Melbourne. This event provided a wealth of information to those who attended, with about 20 exhibitors and four guest speakers, including a keynote speech by international marketing expert Christian Schultz.

The ABS was an exhibitor at this event, showcasing the range of statistical products and services to assist business operators in making informed business decisions. We demonstrated the free data on the ABS website, its potential uses by businesses, and the additional services available as paid consultancies. We were also able to promote the range of tools and resources available on the Understanding Statistics Portal to build statistical capability.

Many business operators were interested in finding out more about the changes in the latest Industry Classification (ANZSIC 2006), with regard to emerging industries.

The event was also a useful platform to promote the 2011 Census, the new Australian Statistical Geographical Standard, and the new range of Census products to be made freely available from June 2012. More information on these products, e.g. TableBuilder and Quick Stats, will be publicised in coming months.

A lot of interest was shown in our products and services, and we are keen to be involved again in the future!

More information for small businesses is available on the Small Business Portal of the ABS website.

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## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE**

The ABS Victorian Statistical Analytical Services (VSAS) section wishes to extend a thank you to the many Local Government Areas (LGAs) that participated in the 2009-2010 Estimated Residential Population (ERP) for LGAs survey conducted in August 2010. The information gathered through the survey will provide a useful validation tool in the preparation of 2010 population estimates for LGAs.

The annual ERP publication (cat no. 3218.0) is used by a variety of government and non-government agencies for a number of purposes, including the planning of infrastructure and allocation of Financial Assistance Grants. The next release of the ERP publication is due in March 2011.

The most recent annual ERP publication can be accessed in Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 3218.0) on the website.

## **EMAIL NOTIFICATION SERVICE**

Subscribe to our free email notification service to receive the latest ABS information via email. You can receive news about our latest releases, or be advised when updates are available for the topics you are interested in.

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## **Recent Releases**

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## **RECENT RELEASES**

The Recent Releases section provides a brief overview of selected publications released in the last quarter. Emphasis is on Victorian and lower level data, where it is available. We encourage you to follow the links to the relevant publications to find out more.

This section contains the following subsection :

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- Social and Demographic Statistics
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## **Census Releases**

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### **CENSUS RELEASES**

**Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing -- Proposed Products and Services, 2011**  
(cat. no. 2011.0) - released 29/07/10

The Census of Population and Housing provides a wealth of information about Australia's population and the dwellings in which we live. The next Census is scheduled for 9 August, 2011.

Planning is well underway for the 2011 Census output program. We are committed to releasing the results of the Census through a wide range of products and services designed to make it easy for you to access the data you need.

The release of this information paper marks the start of a wide consultation program. We encourage you to read through the proposals in this paper and visit ABS Betaworks for a glimpse of what the products might look like. While you are there, please complete the short on-line survey and give us feedback. Your input will ensure that we continue to develop our output products to better meet your data needs.

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## **Social and Demographic Statistics**

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- Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009
- Schools, Australia, 2009

## **SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS**

Australian Social Trends is a quarterly publication which draws together a wide range of statistics, from the ABS and other official sources, to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The latest edition features six articles:

- *Holidaying abroad* - There were a record 6.8 million short-term departures by Australians in 2009-10, equivalent to 31 trips for every 100 Australians.
- *New Zealanders in Australia* - There were 529,200 New Zealand-born people living in Australia in 2009, up by 89% over the last two decades. In 2006, it was estimated that for every 100 New Zealanders in New Zealand, there were 15 New Zealand-born people living in Australia. In the same period, 16% of New Zealand-born people lived in Victoria. This was behind Queensland and New South Wales (38% and 27% respectively) but ahead of Western Australia (12%).
- *Parental divorce or death during childhood* - Compared with people whose parents did not divorce or separate, those who did, were less likely to finish school, more likely to enter a de facto relationship at a younger age, and of those who married, they were less likely to remain married.
- *The city and the bush: Indigenous wellbeing across Remoteness Areas* - While there have been improvements in a range of indicators for Indigenous Australians in recent years, such as school completion rates and employment, inequalities remain evident between Remoteness Areas.
- *Older people and the labour market* - Just over one-third of all people aged 55 years and over (or 1.9 million people) were in the labour force in 2009-10, with this participation rate increasing strongly over the past decade.
- *Australian workers: Educational and workplace training* - The labour force is becoming increasingly skilled with 66% of workers having a non-school qualification in 2009, up from 59% in 2001. One third of people aged 25-34 had a bachelor degree or higher, making this group the most qualified.

To find out more, please visit the publication.

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This publication contains estimates of Australian public funding for arts and cultural activities, facilities and services across three levels of government for 2008-09 and 2007-08. Funding data in this publication are aligned, where possible, with the categories specified in the Industry Classification of the Australian Culture and Leisure Classifications, Second edition (cat. no. 4902.0), released in 2008.

Total government funding for cultural activities was \$6,772.5m in 2008-09, an increase of 7.8% on 2007-08 (\$6,281.1m). The Australian Government contributed \$2,584.5m (38%) to total cultural funding while the state and territory governments contributed \$3,033.7m (45%) and local governments provided \$1,154.2m (17%).

Of the funding provided by state and territory governments in 2008-09, most was directed to heritage activities including museums, nature parks and libraries. This was especially the case for the Northern Territory (88% of state and territory cultural funding for heritage activities), Tasmania (87%) and New South Wales (85%). In Victoria, the corresponding figure was 71%. The remaining cultural funding from state and territory governments was directed to arts activities, including literature, music performance and performing arts.

A majority of local government cultural funding (63%) was allocated to libraries in 2008-09 (\$727.5m). Most public libraries are funded at the local government level, except in Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Of states mainly funded at local government level for libraries, South Australia had the highest proportion of local government funding for libraries in 2008-09 (77%), followed by Western Australia (71%), New South Wales (64%), Queensland (60%) and Victoria (59%).

To find out more, including information about funding per person, recurrent and capital expenditure, and other breakdowns by level of government, please visit the publication.

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The Patient Experience Survey asked people about a range of health services they may have used for their own health in the past 12 months, and the experiences they had with each service. Across Australia, approximately four out of five people aged 15 years and over had seen a general practitioner at least once in the year prior to the survey (around 81% or 14 million people).

Women in every age group were more likely to have seen a GP than men, particularly in the younger age groups. Overall, 86% of Australian women had visited a general practitioner in the last 12 months compared with 75% of men. By the time people reached the age of 65, rates of visiting a GP were well over 90% for both men and women.

In general, people living in major cities were more likely to have seen a GP (82%) than those living in outer regional or remote areas (78%). Across the States and Territories, people living in the ACT were the most likely to have seen a general practitioner (87%) while people living in the NT (76%) and Victoria (79%) were the least likely.

To find out more, including information about barriers to health services, hospital admissions, visits to emergency departments, and communication with health providers, please visit the publication.

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#### **Mental Health of Young People, 2007** (cat. no. 4840.0.55.001) - released 19/07/10

This article provides a brief overview of the mental health of young people aged 16-24 years in Australia. It includes information on the prevalence of mental disorders for people in this age group, as well as their socioeconomic characteristics, level of impairment and the health service usage of young people with mental illness. Data are sourced from the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHWB).

In 2007, approximately three-quarters (76%) of all young people assessed their own mental health as excellent or very good. However, around one-quarter of all young people had a mental disorder in the previous year (approximately 26% or 671,000 young people). The rate of mental disorders for people living in private dwellings gradually decreased from 26% in the 16-24 years age group to 22% in the 45-54 years age group, after which it declined more rapidly to 6% of those aged 75-85. Around one-quarter of people with a mental disorder in each age group had a severe level of impairment associated with their disorder, with the remainder having a mild or moderate level.

Young women were more likely than young men to have had any mental disorder in the year prior to the interview (374,800 or 30% compared with 296,300 or 23% respectively). Young women were also around twice as likely as young men to have an Affective disorder (8% compared with 4%) or an Anxiety disorder (22% compared with 9%). Substance Use disorders, involving harmful use of, or dependency on, alcohol or other drugs, were more common in young men (16%) than in young women (10%).

To find out more, including information about health risks and social characteristics, participation in education and employment, and use of mental health services, please visit the publication.

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#### **Migration, Australia, 2008-09** (cat. no. 3412.0) - released 29/07/10

This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, interstate migration within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia. Australia's migration is described in the context of the Government's migration program and in comparison with international migration experienced by other countries.

In 2008–09, the preliminary estimate of net overseas migration (NOM) was the highest on record for a financial year at 298,900 persons, representing 65% of Australia's population growth for the year. For the year ended 30 June 2009, all states and territories experienced positive NOM. Net overseas migration was the major component of population growth in Victoria at 70% (81,200 persons).

During 2008–09, there were an estimated 359,900 interstate movements, a similar number of movements to the previous year (360,800 movements). Over the last decade, Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria were the only states or territories to record average annual net gains due to interstate migration (26,700, 1,200 and 80 persons respectively).

To find out more, including state and territory level breakdowns by age and country of birth, please visit the publication.

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### **Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3235.0) - released 05/08/10**

This publication contains final estimates of the resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June 2004 and preliminary estimates as at 30 June 2009, based on Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), and states and territories, according to the 2009 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

The estimated resident population of Australia at 30 June 2009 was 21.96 million people. Since June 2004, the Australian population has increased by 1.83 million people or 9.1% (an average of 1.8% per year). At June 2009, just over one-fifth (20.5%) of Australia's population resided within the Sydney SD, down from 20.9% in 2004. Melbourne SD had the largest growth of any capital city SD in the five years to June 2009, gaining 369,500 people.

The estimated resident population of Victoria at 30 June 2009 was 5.44 million people, increasing by 461,800 people (9.3%, or 1.8% per year on average) since 30 June 2004. The Melbourne SD was home to about three-quarters (73.4%, or 4.00 million people) of Victoria's population in June 2009. In the five years to June 2009, the population in the Melbourne SD increased by 369,500 (10.2%) and in regional Victoria by 92,200 (6.8%).

At 30 June 2009, the median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of Victorian residents was 36.9 years - 35.9 years for males and 37.8 years for females. The LGAs with the highest median ages in June 2009 were Queenscliffe (B) (54.0 years), Strathbogie (S) (48.3) and Yarriambiack (48.0), all in regional Victoria. The LGA with the lowest median age was Melbourne (C) (27.7 years), followed by Melton (S) (31.6) and Wyndham (C) (31.8) which are located on Melbourne's growth fringes.

To find out more, including LGA breakdowns by sex ratio, children under 15 years, working aged people, and people over 65 years, please visit the publication.

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### **Schools, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4221.0) - released 06/07/10**

This publication contains statistics on school, students and teaching staff involved in the provision or administration of primary and secondary education, in government and non-government schools for all Australian states and territories. Many of the statistical tables include selected time series.

The number of schools in Australia has decreased over the past 10 years from 9,587 schools in 1999, to 9,529 schools in 2009. This represented a decrease of 165 government schools, and an increase of 4 Catholic schools, and 103 independent schools.

While the number of schools has decreased, the number of students has increased over the past decade. There were around 3,484,700 students in 2009, an increase of 230,300 students since 1999. Students enrolled in government schools accounted for 11% (26,200) of the increase in full-time student numbers, while students in non-government schools accounted for 89% (208,400) of the increase since 1999.

To find out more, including information about Indigenous students, full-time equivalent teaching staff by sex and type and school, and ratio of students to teaching staff, please visit the publication.

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## **Economic and Labour Statistics**

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## ECONOMIC AND LABOUR STATISTICS

### Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) - released 14/09/10

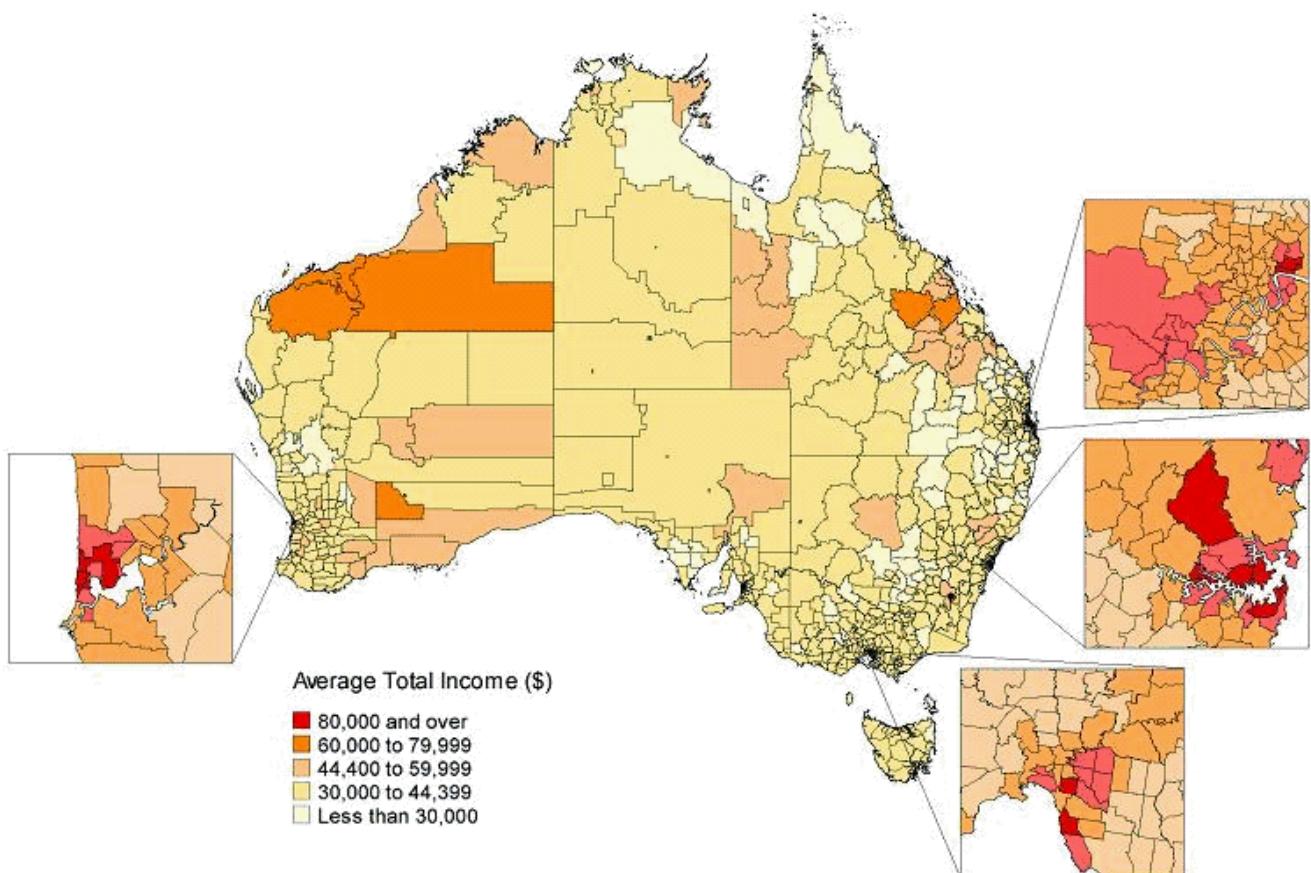
This article presents selected data on estimates of personal income for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08, at a range of geographic levels. These data include income from wages and salaries, own unincorporated business, investment, and superannuation and annuities, but do not include government pensions and allowances.

Total income (excluding Government pensions and allowances) grew by an average of 8.7% per annum from 2003-04 to 2007-08, and while most sources of income grew in absolute terms over this period, the average annual growth rates for each income source varied considerably.

The Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest average total income of all States and Territories (\$52,330), followed by Western Australia (\$47,488) and New South Wales (\$46,480). In general, capital city Statistical Divisions recorded substantially higher average total incomes than regions outside of capital cities.

Map 1 illustrates average total income data for 2007-08 by Statistical Local Area (SLA). Over two-thirds of SLAs in Australia recorded average total incomes lower than the national average (\$44,402). The highest average total incomes were recorded in the SLAs surrounding Sydney Harbour (Mosman, Woollahra, Hunters Hill, North Sydney), in Peppermint Grove and Cottesloe in Perth, Ascot and Hamilton in Brisbane and Stonnington - Prahran and Bayside - Brighton in Melbourne.

**Map 1. AVERAGE TOTAL INCOME, By Statistical Local Area - Australia, 2007-08**



To find out more, including information about sources of income, mix of income sources, regional

variations, and time series data, please visit the publication.

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## **International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics, Calendar year 2009** (cat. no. 5352.0) - released 30/07/10

This publication presents statistics on Australia's international investment position by countries, which supplements the quarterly publication, Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (cat. no. 5302.0). The statistics are presented as time series for the calendar years 2001 to 2009 inclusive.

Australia's net international investment position at 31 December 2009 was \$767.3 billion, an increase of \$62.2 billion on the previous year. The level of foreign investment in Australia increased by \$136.1 billion to reach \$1,897.7 billion. The leading investor countries at 31 December 2009 were:

- United States of America (\$514.3 billion or 27%);
- United Kingdom (\$498.6 billion or 26%);
- Japan (\$102.0 billion or 5%);
- Netherlands (\$43.4 billion or 2%);
- Hong Kong (SAR of China) (\$43.2 billion or 2%);
- Singapore (\$40.2 billion or 2%).

To find out more, including information about level of Australian investment abroad, financial account transactions, and income debits and credits, please visit the publication.

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## **Labour Mobility, Australia, Feb 2010** (cat. no. 6209.0) - released 03/09/10

This publication presents information about people aged 15 years and over who, within the 12 months to February 2010, either had a change of employer/business in their main job, or had some change in work with their current employer/business, for whom they had worked for 12 months or more. The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Labour Mobility Survey, conducted throughout Australia in February 2010 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

There were 10.9 million people working at February 2010. Of these, 82% had been with their current employer/business for 12 months or more and 18% had been with their current employer/business for less than 12 months.

There were 963,000 people (9% of people working at February 2010) who had changed their employer/business in the previous 12 months. The remaining 10 million people, who were working at February 2010, had not changed their employer/business in the last 12 months. This differs to 2008, where there were 1.2 million people (12% of people working at February 2008) who had changed their employer/business in the previous 12 months.

An estimated 2.2 million people (18%) of those who worked at some time during the year ending February 2010 had ceased a job during the year. Of these, there were 917,300 (42%) who had ceased a job involuntarily. Conversely, there were 1.3 million people (58%) who had ceased a job voluntarily. Almost one quarter (24%) of those who ceased their last job voluntarily, did so due to unsatisfactory working conditions.

To find out more, including breakdowns by sex and age, please visit the publication.

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## ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY STATISTICS

### **Energy, Water and Environment Management, 2008-09** (cat. no. 4660.0) - released 30/07/10

There are many different ways in which Australian businesses can manage their environmental impact, just as there are for individuals and households. Some of the actions and activities measured in the 2008-09 ABS Energy, Water and Environment Survey include: development of an environmental plan/policy or system; water management practices; energy audits; setting energy performance targets or indicators; purchasing GreenPower; operating renewable energy systems or equipment; undertaking energy efficiency or energy reduction measures; or any of a number of other environmental management activities.

During 2008-09, 4% (or 40,800) of businesses had an environmental plan, policy or system in place. Of the 3,100 large businesses, 45% (or 1,400) had an environmental plan, policy or system in place. In contrast, only 3% of small businesses (or 32,900 businesses) had one of these measures in place. For the same period, 29% (or 313,600) of businesses undertook environmental management activities, with 75% (or 2,300) of large businesses doing so.

For 2008-09, 22% (or 235,300) of all businesses undertook water management practices. For the same period 55% of all businesses had an energy efficiency or energy reduction measure in place. 21% cited the major barrier to investing in improving energy efficiency practices was the cost involved or the length of the payback time.

To find out more, including information about expenditure on electricity and fuels, and breakdowns by industry, please visit the publication.

### **Experimental Estimates of the Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production, 2000-01 - 2007-08** (cat. no. 4610.0.55.008) - released 30/07/10

Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) estimates have been a core component of the ABS Water Account (cat. no. 4610.0) which is produced every four years. GVIAP refers to the gross value of agricultural commodities that are produced with the assistance of irrigation. The gross value of commodities produced is the value placed on recorded production at the wholesale prices realised in the marketplace. Note that GVIAP is not a measure of productivity.

In 2007-08, irrigated agricultural land comprised less than 0.5% of all agricultural land in Australia. The gross value of production from irrigation was \$12,311 million, which represented 28% of the total gross value of agricultural production. This figure was down from 2006-07, when Gross Value of Irrigated Agricultural Production (GVIAP) was \$12,488 million and represented 35% of the total gross value of agricultural production.

The State which contributed the most to the value of irrigated production during 2007-08 was Victoria with \$3,712 million or 30% of Australia's total GVIAP. The GVIAP for Victoria increased by 13% from 2006-07 to 2007-08, as opposed to the GVIAP for Queensland, which decreased 15% over the same period (from \$3,642 million to \$3,103 million).

The Natural Resource Management region producing the most GVIAP in 2007-08 was Goulburn-Broken, in the Murray-Darling Basin in central Victoria. The GVIAP for this region was \$1,043 million, an increase of 11% from 2006-07.

To find out more, including information about commodity groups, and trends since 2000-01, please visit the publication.

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## AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY STATISTICS

**Innovation in Australian Business, 2008-09** (cat. no. 8158.0) - released 26/08/10

This release presents information about the incidence of innovation in Australian business and related practices or influences, as collected by the 2008-09 Business Characteristics Survey (BCS).

During the year ended 30 June 2009, 40% of Australian businesses reported being innovation-active (i.e. those which undertook any innovative activity), a decrease of 5 percentage points from 45% in 2007-08. The proportion of all businesses which introduced at least one type of innovation dropped 4 percentage points from 39% in 2007-08 to 35% in 2008-09.

To find out more, including information about barriers to innovation and breakdowns by industry, please visit the publication.

**Internet Activity, Australia, Jun 2010** (cat. no. 8153.0) - released 20/09/10

The Internet Activity Survey (IAS) collects details on aspects of internet access services provided by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Australia. This release contains results from all ISPs operating in Australia as at 30 June 2010.

At the end of June 2010, there were 9.6 million active internet subscribers in Australia. The phasing out of dial-up internet connections continued with nearly 92% of internet connections now being non dial-up. Australians also continued to access increasingly faster download speeds, with 71% of access connections offering a download speed of 1.5Mbps or greater.

Digital subscriber line (DSL) continued to be the major technology for connections, accounting for 44% of the total internet connections. However, this percentage share has decreased since December 2009 when DSL represented 47% of the total connections. Mobile wireless (excluding mobile handset connections) was the fastest growing technology in internet access, increasing to 3.5 million in June 2010. This represents a 21.7% increase from December 2009.

To find out more, including breakdowns by state and territory, and information about advertised download speed and volume of data downloaded, please visit the publication.

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**Research and Experimental Development, Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Australia, 2008-09** (cat. no. 8109.0) - released 15/07/10

This release presents statistics on Research and Experimental Development (R&D) undertaken by Australian government and private non-profit organisations for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

During the 2008-09 financial year, expenditure on Research and Experimental Development (R&D) by Australian government organisations was \$3,420 million. Over the same period, human resources devoted to R&D by these organisations represented 17,042 person years of effort (PYE).

Expenditure on R&D by Australian private non-profit (PNP) organisations during the 2008-09 financial period was \$744 million. Over the same period, human resources devoted to R&D by PNP organisations represented 4,788 person years of effort (PYE). The main sources of funds for PNP Expenditure on R&D (PNPERD) in 2008-09 were Commonwealth government (\$285 million or 38% of total PNPERD) and Own funds (\$179 million or 24%). Of all sources of funds, Commonwealth government shows the largest dollar increase from 2006-07 (up \$89 million) and the largest change in proportional share of PNPERD (up 6 percentage points).

To find out more, including information about field of research, industry, and employment size, please visit the publication.

### **Selected Characteristics of Australian Business, 2008-09** (cat. no. 8167.0) - released 16/09/10

This is the third release from the 2008-09 Business Characteristics Survey (BCS) and presents summary data for a selection of topics including: business structure and arrangements; business markets and competition; business finance; business use of Information Technology; business innovation; business performance; barriers to business activities or performance; and skills. Many of the datacubes present data cross-classified by innovation status and industry by employment size. Data included are additional to those outputs from the BCS released previously in Summary of IT Use and Innovation in Australian Business, 2008-09 (cat. no. 8166.0) and Innovation in Australian Business, 2008-09 (cat. no. 8158.0).

All businesses were asked to report whether they had sought any debt and/or equity finance during the year ended 30 June 2009. Of those businesses that sought debt finance, 87% obtained it, a decrease of three percentage points from 2007-08.

To find out more, please visit the publication.

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## **General Releases**

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[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria](#)

## **GENERAL RELEASES**

### **Local Government and ABS, Sep 2010** (cat. no. 1376.0) - released 21/09/10

This biannual newsletter contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics of particular interest to users of local government area data, and information about recent and future releases at Local Government Area or Statistical Local Area levels.

The September 2010 issue showcases the recent release of Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3235.0). The article on these data includes LGAs with high distributions of children, working age population, and people aged 65 years and over and also looks at the median age and sex ratio for LGAs.

Other articles include examples of how you can use the National Regional Profile, the release of the NSS Data Quality Online tool, and an update on what's happening in Local Government Finance.

To find out more, please visit the publication.

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## **Measures of Australia's Progress, 2010** (cat. no. 1370.0) - released 15/09/10

Measures of Australia's Progress (MAP) is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. The publication provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence in answer to this question. Australians can use this evidence to form their own view of how our country is progressing.

In addressing this concept, MAP 2010 examines whether or not Australia is progressing by assessing a number of factors: the state of our environment, the health of our economy, and a variety of areas of individual and societal wellbeing.

How has Australia progressed?

- **Health:** During the past decade Australia's health improved - children born in 2009 were expected to live two to three years longer than those born in 1999.
- **Education and training:** During the past 10 years, the Australian population became more educated - between 1999 and 2009 the proportion of people with a vocational or higher education qualification rose from 49% to 63%.
- **Work:** Despite the recent economic downturn, Australia's annual average unemployment rate was lower in 2009 (5.6%) than in 1999 (6.9%).
- **National income:** Australia experienced significant real income growth during the past decade. Between 1998-99 and 2008-09, real net national disposable income per capita grew by 2.6% a year.
- **National wealth:** National wealth, as measured in Australia's balance sheet, grew over the last decade. Real national net worth per capita increased by about 0.9% a year between June 1999 and June 2009.
- **Household economic wellbeing:** In the decade to 2007-08, the real average household income of low income Australians grew by 41%.

Where can Australia improve?

- **Biodiversity:** There's been a decline in Australia's biodiversity over the past decade with the number of threatened animals increasing by 37%.
- **Atmosphere:** Australia's total net greenhouse gas emissions in 2008 were 16% higher than they were in 1998.

For discussion on changes over time, the context for these changes, and changes across different groups of Australians, please visit the publication.

This edition of MAP also presents a feature article on the future directions of MAP and an interactive blog where you can provide feedback and contribute to the discussion on how we assess whether life in Australia really is getting better.

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## **Research Paper: An Analysis of Repeat Imprisonment Trends in Australia using Prisoner Census Data from 1994 to 2007, Aug 2010** (cat. no. 1351.0.55.031) - released 30/08/10

Reducing the number of prisoners who are repeatedly imprisoned is one of the goals of any correctional system. However, while a period of imprisonment may deter some people from re-offending, in others it may foster further criminal behaviour.

This research paper presents the results of a study based on a longitudinal dataset constructed from 14 successive Prisoner Censuses between 1994 and 2007 to follow, over time, two cohorts of people who were 'released' from prison (where 'release' is a proxy measure derived from the absence of a prisoner's record in a subsequent Prisoner Census). This paper expands on an earlier study by the Australian Bureau of Statistics by using logistic regression models to examine the factors associated with repeat imprisonment and assess whether or not the propensity for reimprisonment has increased over time. This paper also examines trends in criminal career development using descriptive methods, looking at patterns of specialisation, and of movements from one type of offence to another.

The study finds that reimprisonment is strongly associated with being young, being Indigenous, or having been previously imprisoned (that is, being a prisoner who had already served time in prison). In all jurisdictions except Queensland, the rate of reimprisonment in recent years was higher than in the mid-1990s.

To find out more, please visit the publication.

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### **Research Paper: Measuring Economic Returns to Post-School Education in Australia, Aug 2010** (cat. no. 1351.0.55.032) - released 30/08/10

Using the rich data provided by the 1981-2006 six waves of the full Australian Census, this paper estimates the rates of return to post-school education in Australia, with a focus on bachelor degrees. Both the internal rate of return method and Mincer's human capital earnings function method are applied.

Measuring the economic returns to education is useful for education policy settings and an important factor in determining schooling activities of individuals and their educational attainment.

The expected private rates of return from investment in bachelor degrees increased over time for males, from 13.1 percent in 1981 to 19.6 percent in 2001, and then dropped to 15.3 percent in 2006; the range was 18.0 percent to 17.3 percent for females over the same period.

To find out more, please visit the publication.

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### **State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (cat. no. 1367.2) - quarterly**

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (SRIV) is a quarterly publication that contains recently released statistical information about Victoria and its regions. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures according to a triple bottom line of economic, social and environment elements.

The June 2010 issue of SRIV includes:

- **Feature Article:** Water and Energy Efficient Elements of Households in Older and Newer Dwellings
- **Spotlight On:** Short Term Overseas Visitor Arrivals, Victoria 2009
- **Spotlight On:** Population Ageing in Victoria

A number of regular sections, for example Population, Price Indexes, and Agriculture, also provide recent Victorian-level data. We encourage you to explore this publication and the range of statistics it offers.

The next issue of SRIV is due for release on 19 November 2010.

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## **Other Releases**

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## **OTHER RELEASES**

Below are other ABS publications released in the last quarter. To receive the latest ABS information via email, subscribe to our free email notification service. You can receive news about our latest releases, or be advised when updates are available for the topics you are interested in.

## **CENSUS RELEASES**

(no other releases this quarter)

## **SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC RELEASES**

ABS Sources of Disability Information, 2003-2008 (cat. no. 4431.0.55.002) - released 25/08/10

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) - quarterly

Corrective Services, Australia (cat. no. 4512.0) - quarterly

Crime and Justice News, 2010 (cat. no. 4500.0) - released 29/07/10

Culture and Recreation News (cat. no. 4147.4.55.001) - quarterly

Demography News (cat. no. 3106.0) - quarterly

Education and Training Newsletter, Aug 2010 (cat. no. 4211.0) - released 06/09/10

Education News (cat. no. 1330.0) - quarterly

Information Paper: National Health Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4324.0) - released 27/08/10

Microdata: Education and Training, Basic CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.002) - released 30/07/10

Microdata: Education and Training, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.004) - released 30/07/10

Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4100.0.55.001) - released 12/07/10

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Expanded CURF, 2008 (cat. no. 4270.0.55.001) - released 01/09/10

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia: Summary Booklet, 2008 (cat. no. 4714.0.55.003) - released 20/07/10

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0) - monthly

Technical Manual: Education and Training, Basic and Expanded CURFs, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.001) - released 30/07/10

Technical Manual: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4100.0) - released 12/07/10

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## **ECONOMIC AND LABOUR RELEASES**

Analytical Living Cost Indexes for Selected Australian Household Types (cat. no. 6463.0) - quarterly

Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitisers (cat. no. 5232.0.55.001) - quarterly

Australian Economic Indicators (cat. no. 1350.0) - monthly

Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) - quarterly

Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts (cat. no. 5232.0) - quarterly

Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0) - quarterly

Australian System of Government Finance Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2005 (cat. no. 5514.0.55.001) - released 13/07/10

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6403.0.55.001) - quarterly

Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0) - quarterly

Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia (cat. no. 5302.0) - quarterly

Business Indicators, Australia (cat. no. 5676.0) - quarterly

Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0) - quarterly

Government Financial Estimates, Australia, 2010-11 (cat. no. 5501.0.55.001) - released 24/08/10

Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5519.0.55.001) - quarterly

Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0) - monthly

House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0) - quarterly

Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001) - quarterly

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Information Paper: Non-Profit Institutions – A Draft Information Development Plan, Jul 2010 (cat. no. 5256.0.55.001) - released 27/08/10

International Merchandise Imports, Australia (cat. no. 5439.0) - monthly

International Merchandise Trade: Confidential Commodities List (cat. no. 5372.0.55.001) - monthly

International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (cat. no. 5368.0) - monthly

International Trade Price Indexes, Australia (cat. no. 6457.0) - quarterly

Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0) - quarterly

Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0) - monthly

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001) - monthly

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003) - quarterly

Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0) - quarterly

Labour Statistics News, Aug 2010 (cat. no. 6106.0) - released 26/08/10

Lending Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5671.0) - monthly

Managed Funds, Australia (cat. no. 5655.0) - quarterly

Modellers' Database (cat. no. 1364.0.15.003) - quarterly

Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (cat. no. 6467.0) - quarterly

Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (cat. no. 5625.0) - quarterly

Producer Price Indexes, Australia (cat. no. 6427.0) - quarterly

Treasury Model of the Australian Economy -- TSP Version (cat. no. 1364.0.15.001) - quarterly

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## **ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY RELEASES**

Queensland Water and Energy Use and Conservation, Oct 2009 (cat. no. 4602.3) - released 21/07/10

## **AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY RELEASES**

Australian Farming in Brief, 2010 (cat. no. 7106.0) - released 09/09/10

Building Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8752.0) - quarterly

Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0) - monthly

Construction Activity: Chain Volume Measures, Australia (cat. no. 8782.0.65.001) - quarterly

Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 8755.0) - quarterly

Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary (cat. no. 8750.0) - quarterly

Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (cat. no. 8762.0) - quarterly

Livestock and Meat, Australia (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001) - monthly

Livestock Products, Australia (cat. no. 7215.0) - quarterly

Manufacturing Production, Australia (cat. no. 8301.0.55.001) - quarterly

Manufacturing Production, Monthly (cat. no. 8301.0.55.003) - monthly

Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (cat. no. 8412.0) - quarterly

Pre-mixed Concrete Production, Preliminary (cat. no. 8301.0.55.002) - monthly

Production of Selected Construction Materials (cat. no. 8301.0) - monthly

Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0) - monthly

Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0) - monthly

Shipments of Wine and Brandy in Australia by Australian Winemakers and Importers (cat. no. 8504.0) - quarterly

Stocks of Grain Held by Bulk Handling Companies and Grain Traders, Australia (cat. no. 7122.0.55.001) - monthly

Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0) - quarterly

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0.55.002) - quarterly

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Australian Capital Territory (cat. no. 8635.8.55.001) - quarterly

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, New South Wales (cat. no. 8635.1.55.001) - quarterly

Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory (cat. no. 8635.7.55.001) - quarterly

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Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Victoria (cat. no. 8635.2.55.001) - quarterly  
Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Western Australia (cat. no. 8635.5.55.001) - quarterly  
Wheat Use and Stocks, Australia (cat. no. 7307.0) - monthly

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## **GENERAL RELEASES**

ABstract, Statistics News, Australian Capital Territory (cat. no. 1344.8.55.002) - quarterly  
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0) - released 16/09/10  
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Correspondences, July 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0.15.002) - released 16/07/10  
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital Boundaries (Intercensal), Australia, July 2010 (cat. no. 1259.0.30.001) - released 16/07/10  
Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) - Electronic Structures, July 2010 (cat. no. 1216.0.15.001) - released 16/07/10

CURF Microdata News (cat. no. 1104.0) - quarterly

In fACT – Statistical Information on the ACT and Region (cat. no. 1308.8) - quarterly

Inform NT (cat. no. 1308.7) - quarterly

International Monetary Fund - Special Data Dissemination Standard, 2006 (cat. no. 1344.0) - released 06/09/10

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Methodological News (cat. no. 1504.0) - quarterly

Northern Territory at a Glance, 2010 (cat. no. 1304.7) - released 29/07/10

NSW State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1338.1) - quarterly

Qld Stats (cat. no. 1318.3) - monthly

Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (cat. no. 1362.7) - quarterly

SA Stats (cat. no. 1345.4) - monthly

Statistical News SA (cat. no. 1392.0) - quarterly

Stats Talk WA (cat. no. 1304.5) - quarterly

Tasmanian Key Indicators (cat. no. 1304.6) - monthly

Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6) - quarterly

Tasmanian Statistical News (cat. no. 1301.6.55.001) - quarterly

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# Training Courses and Information Seminars

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## TRAINING COURSES AND INFORMATION SEMINARS

### DETAILS OF TRAINING COURSES

**Venue:** ABS Victorian Office, Level 5 South Tower, 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

**Time:** full day courses generally run from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

### What statistical training courses are available at ABS Victoria?

- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)
- Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)
- Turning Data Into Information (TDII)
- Basic Survey Design (BSD)
- Understanding Demographic Data (UDD)
- Principles of Questionnaire Design (PQD)
- Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)
- Introduction to ABS Statistical Collections
- Valuing Australia's Environment (VAE)
- Using ABS Datacubes in SuperTABLE

### COMING UP

The following training courses are scheduled to run in Victoria in the next 3 months.

#### Analysing Survey Data Made Simple

This two-day computer-based course develops practical skills in basic statistical and graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel. It aims to equip participants with the skills to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis;
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form;
- find simple relationships in survey data; and
- test for statistically significant differences between survey results.

This course is designed for people with limited training and exposure to statistical analysis who need to learn how to analyse and describe data that have been collected in surveys. A mathematical background is beneficial but not essential. Previous experience using spreadsheets is recommended.

Length: 2 days

27-28 Oct, 2010

Cost \$750 (inc. GST) per person

#### Turning Data Into Information (TDII)

This course develops skills in interpreting and analysing data, and communicating information clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful information such as written reports. A key theme of this course is analytical thinking to ensure relevant messages are extracted from data to meet set objectives.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00 (inc. GST) per person

23-24 November; 2010

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on ABS statistical training go to the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>. Select 'Services' then ABS Training. Course descriptions are available on the Victorian Information and Registration Form. Additional sessions may be scheduled according to demand.

For courses listed above, Esther Cramer (03 9615 7904) is ABS Victoria's training contact, or email queries/registrations to <[victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au)>.

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## Points of Contact

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[Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum](#)

### POINTS OF CONTACT

#### NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Our consultants have been trained in the range of statistical data and information that is produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and for straightforward queries, they are able to provide free information and data to you over the phone.

Phone: 1300 135 070  
Fax: 1300 135 211

#### ABS VICTORIAN OFFICE

There is an ABS Office in every capital city. The ABS Office in Victoria is located on Level 5, South Tower, 485 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne. To email the Regional Director or Statistical Leadership contacts listed below, use <[victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au)>.

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**VICTORIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY FORUM (VSAF)**

VSAF is a major forum for statistical liaison between Victorian government agencies and ABS. The following group of departmental representatives meet 4 times or more each year.

**VSAF Chair**  
Mary Cavar

**Department of Treasury and Finance**  
Peter Froutzis

**Department of Premier and Cabinet**  
Helen Meyer-Tinning

**Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development**  
Daniela Sekirski

**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**  
Dr Sara Glover

**Department of Health**  
Dr Connie Spinoso

**Department of Human Services**  
Nigel Brand

**Department of Justice**  
Dr Jonathon Spear

**Department of Transport**  
Philip Norman

**Department of Planning and Community Development**  
Dr Tim Patton

**Department of Sustainability and Environment**  
Elizabeth Thomas

**Department of Primary Industries**  
Chris Chan

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